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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace Paragraph one on the first page with:

This application is a continuation application of Patent Number 6,178,164, issued January 23, 2001 ~~co pending Application No. 09/168,191, filed October 7, 1998~~, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Performing Idle Handoff in a Multiple Access Communication System."

Please replace Paragraph one on page 4 with:

Paging is a method of sending information to a mobile station indicating the initiation of mobile terminated service or instructing the mobile to receive new overhead information. A method for initiating a base station initiated call is described in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,392,287, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Reducing Power Consumption in a Mobile Communications Receiver" and in U.S. Patent Number 5,509,015, issued April 16, 1996 ~~co pending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/206,701, filed March 7, 1994~~, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Serial No. 5,392,287, both of which are assigned to the assignee of the present invention and are incorporated by reference herein. The present invention is equally applicable to mobile station initiated calls, the method for which is described in ~~co pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/219,867, filed January 18, 1996~~ U.S. Patent Number 5,544,196, issued August 6, 1996, which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention and is incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace Paragraph one on page 15 with:

In another alternative embodiment mobile station 2 sends the origination message using the procedures described in IS-95-A as described in detail in U.S. Patent Number 5,673,259 ~~co pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/412,648, filed March 12, 1994~~, entitled "Random Access Channel," issued September 30, 1997, assigned to assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference herein. If an acknowledgment is not received from base station 26a within a predetermined timeout period the mobile station increases its transmit power and attempts to send the message again. If mobile station 2 is unable to receive an acknowledgment from base station 26a after a certain number of attempts and another base station, for example

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base station 26b, is stronger, mobile station 2 is permitted to perform an idle handoff to base station 26b and restart the transmission of the origination message.